coffee consumers, instant coffee manufacturers, and an eminent personality in the field of research/marketing/management of coffee have been included in the Board. The Board has succeeded in carrying out the functions entrusted to it by the Coffee Act.

Appointment of the Commissioner of Fisheries, Gujarat as a Member of MPEDA

1025. SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed Shri Christie Fernandes, Commissioner of Fisheries, Gujarat, as a member of the Marine Products Exports Development Authority;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the present Secretary of the Fisheries Department, Gujarat, has refused permission to Shri Christie for attending the last two meetings of the Authority and has suggested to the Authority that he should be appointed a member of the same in place of Shri Christie; and

(c) if so, what action do Government propose to take to ensure that Shri Christie is able to attend the meetings of the Authority in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Government are not aware that the Secretary of the Fisheries Department of Government of Gujarat has refused permission to Shri Christie Fernandes to attend meetings of MPEDA On receipt of a proposal now from the Government of Gujarat, action has been taken for appointing Secretary, Ports, Transport and Fisheries Department of that Government as member of MPEDA in place of Commissioner of Fisheries.

1026. [*Transferred to the 27th November, 1987*]

Bank Robbery in State Bank of Mysore Branch in Connaught Place, New Delhi

1027. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any arrests have been made in connection with the bank robbery case in the State Bank of Mysore branch in Connaught Place, New Delhi, in the month of May, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) In the incident of burglary, also involving double murder, in the State Bank of Mysore, Connaught Place branch, New Delhi, in the month of May, 1986, Rs 9.68 lakhs in cash, some foreign currency and gold ornaments, were stolen. In this connection, 2 persons were arrested on suspicion. The finger-prints lifted from the spot have tallied with the sample finger impression of one of the accused persons arrested Part of the stolen cash/property has also been recovered.

Regional Minimum Wage Policy for Certain Industries

1028 SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for introducing a regional minimum wage policy for certain industries, and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The question of Regional Minimum Wage was considered in the 36th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference. One of the conclusions of the Conference was that the regional minimum wages may be considered employmentwise for selected employment(s) and the Regional Advisory forum will go into specific employment(s) where

minimum wages for the same employment(s) in one of a set of contiguous States caused problems in the other State(s) The details of the guidelines are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages

The questions of disparity in wages and consequent flight of industry and business from one State to another and the formulation of a national minimum wage/regional minimum wages have been discussed in various forums in the past. The National Commission on Labour (1969) examined the issue of National Minimum Wages and was of the view that such a wage in the sense of a uniform monetory rate of remuneration for the country as a whole was neither feasible nor desirable The Commission, however suggested that an effort should be made to fix regional minimum wages in the different homogeneous regions in each State. The matter was more recently discussed in the 28th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held on the 25th and 26th November, 1985. It recommended that till such time as a national minimum wage was feasible, it would be desirable to have regional minimum wages in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. In this context, the draft guidelines were circulated to the State Governments/U.T. Administrations for comments. The comments of some of the States/Union Territories have not been received. In the light of the comments received the matter was placed before the meeting of the State Labour Secretaries held on 29-30th April, 1987 and Labour Ministers' Conference held on the 20th May, 1987 for consideration.

There were detailed discussions on the subject. The guidelines given in the agenda were generally acceptable subject to the following :

(1) The regional forum for considering regional minimum wages would not be a statutory body. Its function would be that of an advisory and Consultative Body.

(2) This Advisory Committee would go into only specific employments *e.g.*, where minimum wages fixed for the same employment(s) in one of a set of contiguous States caused problems in the other State(s). This would warrant consultations in the regional forum for arriving at mutually satisfactory settlements.

In the light of the conclusions of the Labour Ministers' Conference, the following guidelines for the regional minimum wages are circulated :

(a) There will be fix Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees in the country as follows :—

Region	U/Ts./States covered
Eastern Region	West Bengal. Orissa, Bihar, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
North Eastern Region	Assam, Manipur Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram.
Southern Region	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Pandicherry, Lakshadweep.
Northern Region	Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, J & K, Haryana, Delni, Chandigarn.
Western Region	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
Central Region	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh.

A State/U.T. may, on account of its economic and geographical position be represented in more than one Regional Committee, if it so desires.

The Committee will comprise of a representative of the Ministry of Labour and one each of the State Governments/Union Territory in the Region. The meetings of the Committee will be chaired by the representative of the Ministry of Labour. The meetings will be convened in different State/Union Territory in the region by rotation. The Agenda for the meeting of the Committee will be prepared by the Ministry of Labour on receipt of suggestions from the State Governments. The Secretariat assistance and other arrangements in connection with holding of the meeting will be made by the host State.

(b) The question of recommending the regional minimum wages may be consider-

ed employment-wise for selected employment(s). The Committee will go into only specific employment(s) *i.e.*, where minimum wages for the same employment(s) in one of a set of contiguous States caused problems in other State(s).

(c) After the initial recommendations for fixation of the regional minimum wages, the Committee may meet at least twice a year to review the situation.

(d) In considering the rate(s) of the regional minimum wage for specific employments, the Committee would take into account the concept of poverty line, the prevailing wage rates in the particular employment in different States of the region and the neighbouring region(s), the capacity to pay, requirement of skill for the employment and hazards involved etc.

(e) The minimum wages recommended by the Committee may be related to a particular level of All India Consumer Price Index Number compiled by the Labour Bureau, Shimla. However, the States may revise the wage whenever there is a rise of 50 points in the Consumer Price Index. The Committee will not be statutory body and its function being of advisory and consultative nature, the fixation and revision of wages may be done by each State Government in accordance with the prescribed procedure, under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 while keeping the recommendation of the Committee in view.

Action Plan to Curb Communalism

1029. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI :

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently worked out an action plan to curb communalism in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the same and by when it is proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) No new action plan to curb communalism in the country has yet been finalised.

Illegal Termination of Services of Hindi Stenographers Employed by CPWD

1030. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Curzan Road, New Delhi, had forwarded a few cases to his Ministry regarding illegal termination of daily wage Hindi Stenographers by their employers, i.e., C.P.W.D. Executive Engineer of Pushp Vihar Maintenance Division, Mehrauli Badarpur Road Housing Project, Pushp Bhavan, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by his Ministry thereon so far;

(c) what are the reasons for not settling such cases on priority basis keeping in view the sufferings of the employees terminated illegally by the employer ; and

(d) what action is taken against the officers who illegally terminate their employees and violate the rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Curzon Road, New Delhi, has forwarded only one such case which relates to alleged illegal termination of services of Shri Kamal Kumar Gupta, daily wage Hindi Stenographer.

(b) Ministry of Urban Development has been requested to advise the management to resolve the dispute amicably or alternatively agree for reference thereof for adjudication by an Industrial Tribunal.

(c) Efforts are always made to settle such cases on priority basis, in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

(d) This depends on the facts of each case and the relevant law.

Pollution of Ground Water

1031. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindu' (New Delhi edition) dated the 26th October, 1987 to the effect that increased and indiscriminate use of introgenous chemical fertilisers has led to